

Religious TV channel is in the works

Green Bay is getting another television channel.

But Channel 57 won't have a lot of oomph. It will be low-power signal — the city's second — with a top range of about 17 miles.

Having an outside antenna would help.

Channel 57's transmitter will relay the satellite-fed signals of Three Angels Broadcasting Co. of Thompsonville, Ill.

Chief engineer Clarence Larson said he is aiming to put test signals on the air by the end of the week. He wasn't sure when 24-hour broadcasting will start.

Program director Carol Fisher said programming is primarily religious. Most is on tape and about half is produced at Thompsonville, she said.

Health, cooking, music and a children's hour are part of the fare, she said.

Three Angels is leasing space on the WAPL Radio tower in the Scray's Hill area southeast of De Pere. The strongest portion of the TV signal will be aimed toward Green Bay, Larson said.

This setup is similar to one operated by Trinity Broadcasting, which beams a signal from California to a nearby Scray's Hill tower and broadcasts on Channel 38.

No studio is involved, and there



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is no one on-site. A signal is simply duplicated.

Low-power stations are specifically limited by the Federal Communications Commission to short-range broadcasting. The commission's objective is to have stations fill what it feels are gaps in programming provided by existing stations.

■ ABC-TV's *Good Morning America* will be in Wisconsin next week as part of its "The Great Heart of America Bus Tour" gimmick.

Scheduled to be woven into Tuesday's 7-9 a.m. broadcast (on Channel 5, Green Bay) will be glimpses of Milwaukee's Summerfest grounds, Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory and Mader's Restaurant; Racine's Johnson Wax Co.; and Baraboo's Circus World Museum, as well as other sites.

Other segments include a chat with Olympics skater Dan Jansen, a look at an experimental black

school in Milwaukee and an examination of the Lake Michigan ecosystem.

Good Morning America is visiting six states during the week.

■ Four more *Bulletin Board* TV programs are set for production May 18 in Green Bay.

People who would like to sit in the audience for the 9-11 a.m. and 1-3 p.m. tapings may reserve a seat by calling (414) 233-1691. Space is limited.

Bulletin Board is a series about innovation.

■ Kewaunee's ethnic music station, WAUN Radio (92.7 FM), has received permission to increase its power from three to six kilowatts.

Station president Andrew Brusda didn't put a target date on the upgrading but said the station has 18 months to accomplish it.

Brusda pointed out something usually overlooked when stations turn up the juice. "Also, it will increase our power bill," he said.

■ The FCC has allocated an FM radio station to Stephenson, Mich. It would operate at 106.3 on the dial and have a maximum power of 50,000 watts.

The deadline for applications is July 5.

■ WPKR Radio of Oshkosh has fired overnight announcer

David Machen.

Machen is seeking redress, claiming religious discrimination.

Jim Coursolle, WPKR president, said Machen brought materials into the station that the station felt were objectionable.

■ Here's an intriguing sign of a reshaped world of cable TV in the future:

Racine is one of three cities where Home Box Office Inc. will be testing a system that will triple the satellite feeds of both HBO and Cinemax channels.

The "multiplexing" system "takes full advantage of the increased channel capacity that video compression and fiber-optic technology will yield in the 1990s," HBO chairman and chief executive Michael Fuchs said in a statement.

By way of separate feeds, this is prospectively what could happen: "HBO-1" might show a film drama, "HBO-2" a teen-oriented comedy and "HBO-3" an original concert.

The service would be added at no charge to affiliates, HBO said.

The system also will be tested this summer in Kansas and Texas, and HBO said it could introduce the service nationally as early as 1992.

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